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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/600,968	07/25/2000	MARCEL DERRIEN	IVD1025	4188

7590 07/11/2003

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16  
EXAMINER

WONG, LESLIE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1761

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/600,968

Applicant(s)  
Derrien et al.

Examiner  
Leslie Wong

Art Unit  
1761



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 5, 2003
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 14-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 14-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other:

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 14-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagawa et al, Krotkiewski et al (EP 0291578), and Deveau et al for the reasons set forth in rejecting the claims in the previous Office actions (Paper Nos. 6 and 9). The amendments to the claims and the new claim are not seen to influence the conclusion of unpatentability previously set forth.

Nakagawa et al disclose a salt substitute comprising sodium chloride, potassium chloride, magnesium, and calcium (see entire patent, especially the claims). Nakagawa et al also disclose the use of other additives such as magnesium phosphate, calcium phosphate, magnesium citrate, citric acid, and ascorbic acid (see columns 3 and 4).

Krotkiewski et al disclose a table salt comprising sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium, and magnesium (see entire document). Krotkiewski et al also disclose restricted consumption of salt for health reasons including hypertension (see column 1). It is also noted that the link between salt (sodium chloride) consumption and hypertension is notoriously well-known.

Deveau et al disclose a salt composition comprising sodium chloride and at least two salts from a group comprising magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, and potassium chloride (see abstract).

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The claims differ as to the specific amounts claimed.

In the absence of a showing of unexpected results, the amounts claimed are merely a matter of choice and well-within the skill of the art. At most the amounts are seen merely as optimization, see *In re Boesch* 205 USPQ 215.

Attention is invited to *In re Levin*, 84 USPQ 232 and the cases cited therein, which are considered in point in the fact situation of the instant case, and wherein the Court stated on page 234 as follows:

This court has taken the position that new recipes or formulas for cooking food which involve the addition or elimination of common ingredients, or for treating them in ways which differ from the former practice, do not amount to invention, merely because it is not disclosed that, in the constantly developing art of preparing food, no one else ever did the particular thing upon which the applicant asserts his right to a patent. In all such cases, there is nothing patentable unless the applicant by a proper showing further establishes a coaction or cooperative relationship between the selected ingredients which produces a new, unexpected, and useful function. *In re Benjamin D. White*, 17 C.C.P.A. (Patents) 956, 39 F.2d 974, 5 USPQ 267; *In re Mason et al.*, 33 C.C.P.A. (Patents) 1144, 156 F.2d 189, 70 USPQ 221.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to use the claimed amounts in any of *Nakagawa et al*, *Krotkiewski et al*, and *Deveau et al* because the use of the claimed components in the production of salt substitutes is taught by the prior art and the manipulation of the amounts does not provide unexpected results.

Applicant's arguments filed May 5, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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Applicant argues that the prior art does not teach partially replacing the sodium chloride content with calcium salts to obtain a composition having a substantially reduced sodium chloride content, and that the prior art includes additional components.

The prior art clearly teaches all of the claimed components in combination.

Nakagawa et al disclose a salt substitute comprising sodium chloride, potassium chloride, magnesium, and calcium (see entire patent, especially the claims). Nakagawa et al also disclose the use of other additives such as magnesium phosphate, calcium phosphate, magnesium citrate, citric acid, and ascorbic acid (see columns 3 and 4).

Krotkiewski et al disclose a table salt comprising sodium chloride, potassium chloride, calcium, and magnesium (see entire document). Krotkiewski et al also disclose restricted consumption of salt for health reasons including hypertension (see column 1).

Deveau et al disclose a salt composition comprising sodium chloride and at least two salts from a group comprising magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, and potassium chloride (see abstract).

Applicant is using known components to obtain expected results. There is nothing patentable unless the applicant by a proper showing further establishes a coaction or cooperative relationship between the selected ingredients which produces a new, unexpected, and useful function. In It is not seen where Applicant has provided support for unexpected results. In the absence of a showing of unexpected results, the amounts claimed are merely a matter of choice

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and well-within the skill of the art. At most the amounts are seen merely as optimization, see *In re Boesch* 205 USPQ 215.

In the absence of unexpected results, it is not seen how the claimed invention differs from the teachings of the prior art. Applicant's claims are drawn to a combination of known components which produces expected results, see *In re Kerkhoven* 205 USPQ 1069 and *In re Gershon* 152 USPQ 602.

All of the claim limitations and arguments have been considered. None of them are seen as serving as basis for patentability.

No claim is allowed.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

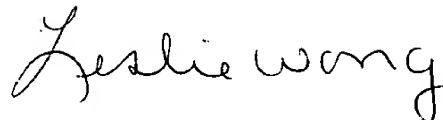
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Wong whose telephone number is (703) 308-1979. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday.

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The fax number for this Group is (703) 872-9310 for non-final responses and (703) 872-9311 for after-final responses.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie Wong".

**Leslie Wong**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**Art Unit 1761**

LAW  
July 10, 2003